



HANFORD ADVISORY BOARD

A Site Specific Advisory Board, Chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act

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US Dept of Energy
US Environmental
Protection Agency
Washington State Dept
of Ecology

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April 14, 2016

Stacy Charboneau, Manager

U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office

P.O. Box 550 (A7-75)

Richland, WA 99352

Dennis Faulk, Manager

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10

825 Jadwin Ave., Suite 210 (A1-43)

Richland, WA 99352

Re: Public Involvement and Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility (ERDF)
Vertical Expansion

Dear Ms. Charboneau and Mr. Faulk,

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced that they were proceeding with a vertical expansion approach for the Environmental Restoration and Disposal Facility (ERDF) during the February 2016 Hanford Advisory Board (Board) meeting and again, at the February 2016 River and Plateau (RAP) committee meeting. While the Board appreciated the information shared, members identified concerns regarding the permanent, additional waste load on top of ERDF. The Board also was concerned about the lack of public involvement in the consideration of vertical expansion and emphasized interest in bringing a broader conversation about ERDF before the Board and the public.

ERDF is a lined landfill the size of approximately eighty-one football fields (107 acres) and goes to a depth of 70 feet. As the heart of Hanford's remediation plan, ERDF has been accepting mixed waste, some of it highly radioactive, since 1996. Located on Hanford's Central Plateau, ERDF is the permanent disposal site for much of Hanford's waste, including contaminated soil, contaminated equipment, and debris from demolished buildings. Significantly, ERDF has accepted more than 17 million tons of contaminated material. During ERDF's 20 years of operation, there have been a number of changes to the performance assessment (PA), changes to various assumptions about future impacts, and changes to the limits on certain contaminants. Given that cleanup has several decades to go, and that additional huge volumes of waste will end up in ERDF, it seems an opportune time to take an overall

Hanford Advisory Board

Subject: ERDF Vertical Expansion

Adopted: April 14, 2016

2016O-05

Page 1

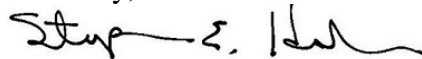
look at ERDF and what additional changes (and their potential impact) may be anticipated for the next 15-20 years and beyond.

The Board requests that DOE and EPA work with the RAP committee to share information about ERDF, its past operations, its leachate collection and monitoring system, and the validity of the assumptions made in the PA in light of 20 years of operational data. Assumptions about the next 15-20 years of operations, anticipated changes and their potential impacts are also of critical interest to Board membership. The Board requests that DOE and EPA also work through the RAP and Public Involvement and Communications committees to develop and share this information in a manner that will help build a more thorough understanding of ERDF's past, present, and future for the Board and the public.

Equally important, the Board requests that DOE and EPA share this information in a manner that encourages dialogue and understanding and that solicits input from the Board and the public. These discussions may result in the necessity of developing a public workshop regarding ERDF and the Board is eager to help in that development.

Additionally, the Board is concerned about future decisions that may not legally require public vetting, but that could have lasting impacts on the Hanford Site, both environmentally and culturally; the Board looks forward to expanding this conversation with the agencies and the public as well.

Sincerely,



Steve Hudson, Chair
Hanford Advisory Board

cc: Kevin Smith, Manager, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of River Protection
Kyle Rankin, Co-Deputy Designated Federal Official, U.S. Department of Energy Richland Operations Office
Dawn MacDonald, Co-Deputy Designated Federal Official, U.S. Department of Energy Office of River Protection
Alex Smith, Washington State Department of Ecology
David Borak, U.S. Department of Energy, Headquarters
The Oregon and Washington Delegations